

**San Antonio, TX**-Today Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) extended congratulations to James Galindo of Helotes on his recent offer of an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Rodriguez nominated Galindo to the service academy in December of 2008.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for young people like James. He has proven himself to be a responsible, disciplined student with strong academics and leadership skills. James represents the best and the brightest of Texas. I wish him good luck and congratulate him as he begins his service to our country,” said Rodriguez.

“My family history is full of military men, from El Cid to the Alamo and to present. It is this tradition of duty and honor to our country that inspires me to want to attend a United States Military Academy,” Galindo said in his application to Rodriguez.

James will be the fourth generation to serve in the Navy in his family but he will be the first Naval Officer. He is the son of Roberto and Patricia Galindo, and attends the Atonement Academy in San Antonio. James is leader on the basketball court as a starter for the varsity team, on the stage in starring roles of various productions around the city, and as a prize-winning vocalist.

In order to be nominated for a service academy, young men and women must be of good character and must meet strict requirements in academics, physical aptitude, medical fitness, character, and leadership potential. Applicants must also meet the minimum medical requirements of the respective academies which are reviewed by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB). Candidates must also receive a nomination from a nominating source, one of which is through a member of their Congressional delegation.

The service academies notify students who have qualified for appointments on a rolling basis. Rodriguez nominated 38 highly-qualified Texas students to the military service academies this year from his district.